English Language Arts Draft Core Standards 2008-2009 Vermont Alternate Assessment

There are five prioritized Core Standards proposed for English Language Arts (ELA) for the Vermont Alternate Assessment (AA): #1 Early Reading Strategies, #2 Word Identification &Decoding Strategies, #3 Comprehension, #4 Developing Depth and Breadth of Vocabulary, and #5 Developing Communication Skills. Standards #1, #3, and #5 are further divided into related subparts (A or B.) that represent essential elements of the standard. Every Core Standard identifies a number of *instructional focus* areas to correspond with curriculum assessed in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) at grades 3-8, and 11. Alternate assessment portfolios are developed in grades 2 through 7 &10 to match this instruction and assessment cycle. The instructional focus areas within the standard are translated into *learning progressions* successively more complex knowledge and skill targets in each of the three designated grade spans (Elementary 2-5; Middle 6-8; and High 9-12). These are the **Alternate Assessment Grade Cluster Expectations** (AA GCE). Educational teams must select specific learning targets for instruction and assessment from these progressions.

Although the ELA Core standards include Communication Skills (#5), only the reading standards (#1-4) will be formally assessed in the AA portfolio. However, many of the oral and written communication skills described in this standard will be imbedded in the assessment in the form of response modes used to demonstrate student learning.

Core Standards for English Language Arts

- 1. Early Reading Strategies (Foundational Reading Skills)
 - A. Concepts of Print
 - B. Phonological Awareness
- 2. Word Identification & Decoding Strategies: Making Meaning at the Word Level
- 3. Comprehension: Making Meaning at the Text Level
 - A. Literary text
 - B. Informational text
- 4. Developing Depth and Breath of Vocabulary
- 5. Developing Communication Skills
 - A. Oral Communication
 - B. Written Communication

While the ELA Core Standards represent breadth similar to Vermont's grade-level content grade expectations (GE), they are somewhat reduced in depth or cognitive demand. ELA content included for the AA has been prioritized to include those skills and concepts that are best learned through direct experience and interactions with people and texts. 'People' will include a variety of instructors and audiences including teachers, parents, and peers. 'Text' is used or implied throughout the reading and writing AA GCE and is intended to include a range and variety of formats, including print, read aloud, picture, and/or other adapted modified materials.

1

Within each grade span, special educators should collaborate with general education teachers to determine which content related learning opportunities in ELA can be accessible to students with significant cognitive disabilities within the general education classroom.

For example, a fourth grade class may be using informational texts to follow directions in a recipe, a map, or a science investigation. *All* students could participate in using these informational texts, although the specific tasks for them may differ from what is expected of their peers. Collaborations between general education and special education staff ensure that the ELA content and contexts are age-appropriate for the students taking the alternate assessment (e.g. Reading nursery rhymes would not be considered age appropriate for the 4th grade; reading or listening to poetry and song lyrics would be age-appropriate).

The alternate assessment portfolio requires teachers to assess student achievement in two (2) reading core standards: one required core standard (#4 Developing Depth and Breadth of Vocabulary) plus one additional reading standard (#1 Early Reading Strategies; or #2 Word Identification and Decoding; or #3 Text Comprehension). Educators and educational teams should consider the existing grade-level curriculum and the skills and knowledge of the individual student in order to determine which specific aspects of the two ELA Core Standards to target for instruction and expand as student literacy skills develop over time.

Given the interrelated nature of the AA GCE, multiple learning targets could be identified for instruction addressing each of the two Core Standards chosen. At grade 4, a student working on Core Standard #2 (Word Identification and Decoding) might be participating in instruction on several related expectations (e.g. ELA 2.3 Identifies word families and patterns and ELA 2.4 Identifies prefixes and suffixes), but only be assessed in the AA portfolio on a single AA GCE.

In order to effectively cover the breadth of the content area over time, the Alternate Assessment for a particular student will address different ELA AA GCE selected from the grade span. While teams may appropriately continue instruction on previously targeted skills in a given school year, *different* learning tasks would be chosen across the grade span for assessment purposes in the portfolio. Using this approach, learning will have more continuity within each grade span as some skills are extended and new skills and understanding emerge.

A suggested plan for the 2008-2009 school year is provided on the following page. In selecting the appropriate Reading Core Standards and AA GCE to assess for each student, teachers should begin with skills closest to those matching the student's grade level curriculum. (See *Grade Expectations for Vermont's Framework of Standards & Learning Opportunities* for grade-specific GE.) While both text types should be included for instruction at each grade level, alternating between text types (Core Standard #3-comprehension of literary and informational text) each grade is appropriate for assessment purposes.

What the Grade-by-Grade Alternate Assessment Portfolio Plan Could Look Like for Reading for the 2008-2009 School Year

[Developing Depth & Breadth of Vocabulary is required at each grade level.]

Grade	(#1a & #1b)	(#2)	(#3a & #3b)	(#4)	(#5a & #5b)
Levels	Early Reading Strategies	Using Word Identification & Decoding Strategies	Comprehension: Making Meaning at the Text Level	Developing Depth & Breadth of Vocabulary	Developing Communication Skills
Grade 2	Suggested	Include for instruction	Include both text types for instruction	Required	Integrated as response mode with a strand assessed
Grade 3	Suggested	Include for instruction	Include both text types for instruction	Required	Integrated as response mode with a strand assessed
Grade 4	Include for instruction as needed	Suggested	Include both text types for instruction	Required	Integrated as response mode with a strand assessed
Grade 5	Include for instruction as needed	Include for instruction as needed	Suggested Literary texts (#3a)	Required	Integrated as response mode with a strand assessed
Grade 6	Include for instruction as needed	Include for instruction as needed	Suggested Informational texts (#3b)	Required	Integrated as response mode with a strand assessed
Grade 7	Include for instruction as needed	Include for instruction as needed	Suggested Literary texts (#3a)	Required	Integrated as response mode with a strand assessed
Grade 8		Include for instruction as needed	Include both text types for instruction	Include for instruction	Include for instruction
Grade 9		Include for instruction as needed	Include both text types for instruction	Include for instruction	Include for instruction
Grade 10		Include for instruction as needed	Suggested Informational texts (#3b)	Required	Integrated as response mode with a strand assessed
Grade 11		Include for instruction as needed	Include both text types for instruction	Include for instruction	Include for instruction
Grade 12		Include for instruction as needed	Include both text types for instruction	Include for instruction	Include for instruction

AA Core Standards	VT		Elementary (2-5)	Middle (6-8)	High (9-12)
Reading	GE	Instructional Focus	AA Grade Cluster	AA Grade Cluster	AA Grade Cluster
			Expectation	Expectation	Expectation
1. Early Reading Strategies	R1	A. Concepts of Print Understands that text	1e . Follows text: Demonstrates directionality: left-to right and top-to bottom; 1-1 matching of	1m. Follows text: Demonstrates directionality: left-to right and top-to bottom; 1-1 matching of	1h . Follows text: Demonstrates directionality: left-to right and topto bottom; 1-1 matching of words
Part A. Concepts of Print Essence: Language has recognizable uniform features and constructed text carries meaning.		Listens to, follows along, and responds to books/text read aloud Locates environmental print and interprets the message/ meaning	words spoken to words in print 2e. Identifies key parts of a book: front and back, print, illustrations, title, author 3e. Distinguishes between letters, words, sentences, punctuation marks	words spoken to words in print 2m. Identifies key parts of a book: front and back, print, illustrations, title, author 3m. Distinguishes between letters, words, sentences, punctuation marks	 spoken to words in print 2h. Identifies key parts of a book: front and back, print, illustrations, title, author 3h. Distinguishes between letters, words, sentences, punctuation marks
Part B. Phonological	R2	Talks about/shares books, stories B. Phonological	1e. Recognizes pairs of rhyming words	1m. Recognizes pairs of rhyming words	1h. Recognizes pairs of rhyming words
Awareness Essence: Symbols are related to sounds which carry meaning.	W3	Awareness Shares rhymes, poetry, songs, books with simple patterns Matches and compares words based on sounds (e.g., words that begin or end with same sound) Understands that letters (symbols) in written words represent phonemes in spoken words (Alphabetic Principle)	2e. Blends and segments phonemes in one-syllable words 3e. Blends and segments onsetrimes in one-syllable words 4e. Isolates phonemes in single syllable words 5e. Counts syllables in words	2m. Blends and segments phonemes in more complex one-syllable words (which may include combinations of blends and digraphs, as in th-i-ck, t-r-a-sh) 3m. Blends and segments onsetrimes in one-syllable words 4m. Isolates phonemes in single syllable words 5m. Counts syllables in words Deletes phonemes in one syllable words. (Say crust. Say crust without the c.)	2h. Blends and segments phonemes in more complex one- syllable words (which may include combinations of blends and digraphs, as in th-i-ck, t-r-a- sh) 3h. Blends and segments onset- rimes in one-syllable words 4h. Isolates phonemes in single syllable words 5h. Counts syllables in words Deletes phonemes in one syllable words. (Say crust. Say crust without the c.)

AA Core Standards Reading	VT GE	Instructional Focus	Elementary (2-5) AA Grade Cluster	Middle (6-8) AA Grade Cluster	High (9-12) AA Grade Cluster
			Expectation	Expectation	Expectation
2. Word Identification & Decoding Strategies: Making Meaning at the word level	R3 W3	Uses knowledge of sound/symbol relationships and word patterns	1e. Recognizes and names upper & lower case letters2e. Recognizes or identifies primary sounds represented by <i>most</i> letters	2m . Recognizes or identifies primary sounds represented by <i>most</i> letters	2h. Recognizes or identifies primary sounds represented by <i>most</i> letters
Essence: There are basic word identification strategies to read words in isolation and in context of connected text.		Applies phonetic rules to decode regularly spelled (decodable) words Identifies/reads common sight words Uses knowledge of sounds and word patterns to spell	 3e. Recognizes or identifies word families and patterns 4e. Recognizes or identifies prefixes and suffixes 5e. Reads high-frequency words (e.g., environmental print, name(s), personal interest, regularly spelled words) 6e. Identifies when a word does not make sense in the context used 	 3m. Recognizes or identifies word families and patterns 4m. Recognizes or identifies prefixes and suffixes and their basic meaning 5m. Reads high-frequency words (e.g., environmental print, name(s), personal interest, regularly spelled words, subject-specific words) 6m. Identifies when a word does not make sense in the context used 7m. Identifies multi-syllable words using knowledge of sounds or word patterns) 	 3h. Recognizes or identifies word families and patterns 4h. Recognizes or identifies prefixes and suffixes and their basic meanings 5h. Reads high-frequency words (e.g., environmental print, name(s), personal interest_regularly spelled words, subject-specific words) 6h. Identifies when a word does not make sense in context used 7h. Identifies multi-syllable words using knowledge of sounds_six syllable types, and word patterns)

AA Core Standards Reading	VT GE	Instructional Focus	Elementary (2-5) AA Grade Cluster Expectation	Middle (6-8) AA Grade Cluster Expectation	High (9-12) AA Grade Cluster Expectation
3. Comprehension: Making meaning at the text level	R7 R10 R11	A. Literary text Reads a variety of print	1e. Recognizes or matches story details		
Part A. Literary text	R13 R14 R14	and non-print literary texts (stories, poems, tall tales, fables, plays,	2e. Identifies or describes story elements (character, setting, problem, solution)	2m. Identifies or describes story elements (character, setting, problem, solution)	2h. Identifies or describes story elements (character, setting, <u>plot</u> , <u>subplot</u> , <u>conflict</u> , <u>resolution</u>)
Literary text	K14	etc.) Expresses understanding of	3e. Retells or sequences major events (beginning, middle, end)	3m. Retells or sequences major events (e.g., using a timeline or story map)	3h. Retells or sequences major events (e.g., using a timeline or story map)
		literary elements (characters, setting	4e. Recognizes or identifies the major event	4m. Summarizes the major event	4h. Summarizes major events
		problem/solution, conflict/ resolution)	5e. Answers basic inference questions (e.g., was he happy or sad? Why was he sad?)	5m. Answers basic inference questions (e.g., was he happy or sad? Why was he sad?)	5h. Answers basic inference questions (e.g., was he happy or sad? Why was he sad?)
Essence: Knowledge of literary texts is used to: answer questions,		Makes personal connections to ideas presented; responds	6e. Makes basic predictions	6m. Makes plausible predictions Explains a prediction or inference	6h. Makes plausible predictions Explains a prediction or inference
locate or recall information, and to explore literary themes		with a personal opinion Uses text features to enhance understanding	7e. Recognizes or identifies explicitly stated cause or effect	7m. Recognizes or identifies cause or effect (explicit or implied)	7h. <u>Links cause to effect (explicit or implied)</u>
and ideas academically or for pleasure		(e.g., title, illustrations, cover design, music or	8e. Identifies traits of characters	8m. Identifies traits of characters using words, actions, motivations	
		Selects texts to reads for pleasure or personal	9e. Compares characters	9m. Compares characters	9h. Compares or analyzes characters, using characters' words, actions, motivations
	interest	10e. Identifies literary devices; rhyme, <u>imagery</u>	10m. Identifies literary devices; rhyme, imagery, description, dialogue, repetition, analogies, exaggeration	10h. Identifies literary devices; rhyme, imagery, description, dialogue, repetition, analogies, exaggeration, figurative language, symbolism (e.g., American Flag)	
			11e. Distinguishes between literary and informational texts	11m. Distinguishes between literary and informational texts and among different literary	11h. Distinguishes among literary texts (e.g., play, poem, novel, short story)

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		genres (e.g., play, poem, story,	
		myth)	12h. Identifies narrator or point of
			view. Explains how point of view,
			illustrations, or other
			inustrations, or other
			visual/auditory effects impact the
			reader's/ viewer's interpretation
			Identifies the author's lesson or
			theme
			<u> </u>
			12h Compares toyte (a.g. by
			13h. Compares texts (e.g., by
			same author; texts on same topic)

AA Core Standards Reading	VT GE	Instructional Focus	Elementary (2-5) AA Grade Cluster Expectation	Middle (6-8) AA Grade Cluster Expectation	High (9-12) AA Grade Cluster Expectation
3. Comprehension: Making meaning at	R7 R12	B. Informational text	1e. Recognizes, identifies or matches details		
the text level Part B. Informational Text	R16	Reads a variety of print and non-print informational texts (safety/directional	2e. Responds to basic questions about content (who, what, where, why, how)	2m. Responds to questions about content (who, what, where, why, how)	2h. Responds to questions about content (who, what, where, why, how)
		words in environment, menu, maps, article, newspaper, trade book, Internet, etc.)	3e. Recognizes or identifies central/ main idea	3m. Recognizes or identifies central/ main idea or supporting details	3h. Recognizes or identifies central/ main idea and supporting details
Essence: Knowledge of informational texts is used to: answer questions, locate or		Obtains information from print and non-print texts	4e. Recognizes correct sequences of key ideas (e.g., steps in recipe or steps in a science procedure)	4m. Sequences key ideas (e.g., steps in recipe or steps in a science procedure)	4h. Sequences key ideas (e.g., steps in recipe or steps in a science procedure)
recall information, to perform a task (e.g., bake a cake, play a game, ride a bus), or to		Uses text features to enhance understanding (e.g., diagrams, headings, photographs,	5e. Uses text features to obtain information (e.g., photo, illustration, map)	5m. Uses text features to obtain information (e.g., photo, illustration, map, <u>find key information in diagram or table)</u>	5h. Uses text features to obtain information
explore topics of interest.		video and sound in non- print texts)	6e. Answers basic inference questions (e.g., what caused the flood?)	6m. Explains an inference made	6h. Explains an inference made
		Makes personal connections to ideas	7e. Identifies cause or effect	7m. Identifies cause or effect	7h. Links cause to effect
		presented; responds with a personal opinion Selects texts to reads	8e. Organizes information (e.g., using T-chart provided)	8m. Organizes information (e.g., using T-chart, <u>fills in/completes</u> <u>diagram</u>)	8h. Organizes information (e.g., using T-chart, fills in/ completes diagram, <u>forms</u>)
		for pleasure or personal interest	9e. Distinguishes between literary and informational texts	9m. Distinguishes between literary and informational texts and among different informational texts (e.g., newspaper, magazine, reference book, historical fiction)	9h. Distinguishes among informational texts (e.g., on-line reference materials, biographies, advertisements, technical manuals)
				10m. Summarizes key ideas	10h. <u>Identifies/summarizes the</u> author's message

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		11m. Distinguishes fact from	11h. Distinguishes fact from
		<u>opinion</u>	
		<u>opinion</u>	opinion and explains reasoning
		12m. Matches informational texts	12h. Matches informational texts
		to purpose (e.g., map, menu, TV	to purpose (e.g., map, menu, TV
		news)	news)
		news)	news)
			13h. Compares or combines
			facts/ideas from more than one text
			(e.g., using a graphic organizer,
			writing compare-contrast
			statements)
			<u> </u>

AA Core Standards Reading	VT GE	Instructional Focus	Elementary (2-5) AA Grade Cluster Expectation	Middle (6-8) AA Grade Cluster Expectation	High (9-12) AA Grade Cluster Expectation
		Use strategies to unlock meaning of unfamiliar words Sorts/classifies objects, pictures, or words: that mean the same/opposite; in the same category or that have something in common Relates new meanings to prior knowledge and applies new vocabulary in language activities Builds personal word bank (e.g., words that express emotions, colors, geometric figures/shapes, hobbies, interests, subject-specific words, work-related words)	AA Grade Cluster	AA Grade Cluster	AA Grade Cluster
			or observable features	observable features, or functions	observable features, or functions, including content –specific words
			7e. Selects appropriate word to use in context (e.g., student uses pictures or word banks to complete sentences or	7m. Selects <u>or explains</u> appropriate word to use in context	7h. Selects <u>and</u> explains appropriate word to use in context

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	storyboards).		
		8m. <u>Uses transitional</u>	8h. Uses transitional
		words/phrases appropriately in	words/phrases appropriately in
		speaking or writing (e.g., first,	speaking or writing (e.g., <u>because</u> ,
		next, and, but, before-after)	also, if-then)

AA Core Standards Communication	VT GE	Instructional Focus	Elementary (2-5) AA Grade Cluster	Middle (6-8) AA Grade Cluster	High (9-12) AA Grade Cluster
			Expectation	Expectation	Expectation
5. Development of Communication Skills	1.13 1.14 1.15	A. Oral Communication Develops expressive	1e. Communicates for different purposes (e.g., expresses needs, asks question, recalls, responds to question or direction)	1m. Communicates for different purposes (e.g., expresses needs, asks question, recalls, responds to question or direction)	1h. Communicates for different purposes (e.g., expresses needs, asks question, recalls, responds to question or direction)
Part A. Oral Communication	and	and receptive language skills	2e, Communicates in complete sentences	2m. Communicates in complete sentences	2h. Communicates in complete sentences
Essence: Speaking and listening skills are used to communicate	W2 W4 W5 W6 W7	Follows directions Applies new vocabulary in language activities	3e . Communicates on a given topic, observation, idea, or experience using scaffolding provided (e.g., cueing, pictures, symbols, objects)	3m. Communicates on a given topic, observation, idea, or experience, independently	3h. Communicates on a given topic, observation, idea, or experience, independently
thoughts, feelings, and ideas.	W8 W9 W10 W11 W12	Builds personal word bank (e.g., words that express emotions, descriptive words,	4e. Follows or expresses a sequence (e.g., steps in science procedure; follows a direction; tells a story)	4m. Follows or expresses a sequence (e.g., steps in science procedure; follows a direction; tells a story)	4h. Follows or expresses a sequence (e.g., steps in science procedure; follows a direction; tells a story)
	W13	organizes information for intended meaning	5e . Responds in a variety of forms (e.g., writing, drawing, drama, speaking)	5m. Responds in a variety of forms (e.g., writing, drawing, drama)	5h. Responds in a variety of forms
		Shares ideas with others	6e. Shows awareness of audience: eye contact, volume, gesture	6m. Shows awareness of audience: eye contact, volume, gesture, <u>adjusts to reactions</u> , <u>answers questions</u>	6h. Shows awareness of audience: eye contact, volume, gesture, adjusts to reactions, answers questions, infers meaning from tone and gesture
			7e. Uses language expressively (e.g., opinion, feelings)	7m. Uses language expressively (e.g., opinion, feelings) and persuasively	7h. Uses language expressively and persuasively
			8e. Takes turns when speaking	8m. Uses pacing and volume appropriately	8h. Uses pacing and volume appropriately in formal and informal situations
Core Standards - Fredisk I o				9m. Shows command of simple grammar (e.g., plurals, verb tense)	9mShows command of grammar (e.g., plurals, verb tense, pronouns)

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AA Core Standards Reading	VT GE	Instructional Focus	Elementary (2-5) AA Grade Cluster Expectation	Middle (6-8) AA Grade Cluster Expectation	High (9-12) AA Grade Cluster Expectation
5. Development of Communication Skills	W1 W2 W3	B. Written Communication	1e. Composes for different purposes using symbols/ letters, pictures, or words	1m. Composes for different purposes using symbols/letters, pictures, or words	1h. Composes for different purposes
Part B. Written Communication	W4 W5 W6 W7 W8 W9	Applies new vocabulary in language activities. Builds personal word bank (e.g., words that express emotions,	2e. Edits written products (e.g., capitalization for names, beginning capitalization and end punctuation in simple sentences; spells high frequency words)	2m. Edits written products (e.g., capitalization for names, beginning capitalization and end punctuation in sentences, spells high frequency words, corrects grammatical errors, uses word banks to correct spelling)	2h. Edits written products (e.g., capitalization, punctuation grammar, spelling)
Essence: There are	W10 W11 W12	descriptive words, subject specific words)	3e. Identifies or writes/ communicates complete sentences	3m. Writes/communicates complete sentences	3h. Writes/communicates a variety of complete sentences (e.g., simple, compound, question, exclamation)
strategies for using written language to communicate thoughts, feelings, and ideas.	W13 W14 W15 W16 W18 W19	Creates a variety of print and non-print texts to communicate ideas (e.g., letters, stories, poems, plays, menus, maps, signs,	4e. Writes/communicates multiple phrases or sentences on a given topic, observation, or experience using scaffolding provided (e.g., template for a letter, invitation, recipe; graphic organizer)	4m. Writes a paragraph with main idea and some supporting details, with or without scaffolding	4h. Writes a paragraph with main idea and some supporting details, with or without scaffolding
		posters, articles) for a variety of purposes Organizes information for intended meaning Revises, edits, and	 5e. Communicates a sequence (e.g., steps in science procedure), description, or problem solution (e.g., story) with scaffolding (e.g., template) 6e. Forms most letters and uses spacing between letters or word 	5m. Communicates a sequence (e.g., steps in science procedure), description, problem solution (e.g., story), or compare-contrast	5h. Communicates a sequence (e.g., steps in science procedure), description, problem solution (e.g., story), compare-contrast, or <u>cause-effect</u> (e.g., result of observation or science investigation
		Shares writing/ideas with others	7e. Responds in a variety of forms (e.g., writing, drawing)	8m. Uses transitional words/phrases appropriately in writing (e.g., first, next, and, but, before-after)	8h. Uses transitional words/phrases appropriately in writing (e.g., first, next, and, but, before-after)